



L'Imperatrice?

IV.

THE IMPERATRICE PLUM.

This Plum is spoken of by many of the old writers in terms of high commendation; and it is still found to possess the good qualities which they have ascribed to it. DU HAMEL, in describing the *Imperatrice Violette*, says, it is somewhat like the *Perdrigon*, with leaves "deeply dentated," fruit long, "pointed at both extremities;" in both which respects the variety now figured differs from his, though otherwise agreeing with it: and this author, in concluding his description, says, "it should, I think, be regarded as a late *Perdrigon*, for the true *Imperatrice Violette* is almost round*."

The tree is of rather free growth, its shoots pretty strong, their bark of a fine dark reddish brown. Flower-buds large, pointed, generally two or three at very little distance from each other. Flowers small, much expanded, petals oval. Leaves from two to three inches in length, slightly dentated; petioles about an inch long, faintly tinted with red at the base; leaves covered with thick down. Fruit of a middle size, rather long, pointed at the base,

* I am informed by Mr. KNIGHT, that the form of this, and other oblong plums, is subject to the above-mentioned variations, even upon the same tree; when different branches indicate very different degrees of health and vigour.